

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04 PM-05 NSC-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 25, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA?

A: WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT IN CAPE TOWN TODAY THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

I THINK ON THE HILL THIS MORNING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RICHARD MOOSE CALLED THIS DECISION AN EXTRAORDINARILY STATESMAN-LIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE STEP IN THE PROCESS. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY MR. VORSTER'S STATEMENT, BUT WE ARE NATURALLY GRATIFIED AT THESE FIRST REPORTS.

WE NOTE THAT IN HIS SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA YESTERDAY SAM NUJOMA THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, DID NOT SAY ANYTHING WHICH WOULD TEND TO RULE OUT A POSITIVE SWAPO RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL.

Q: WERE YOU NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF VORSTER'S DECISION?
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A: NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: ARE YOU NOW IN TOUCH WITH NUJOMA TO FIND OUT WHAT SWAPO'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE?

A: I ASSUME SO. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO CHECK THAT MORE PRECISELY, I WILL BE HAPPY TO DO SO.
VANCE

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